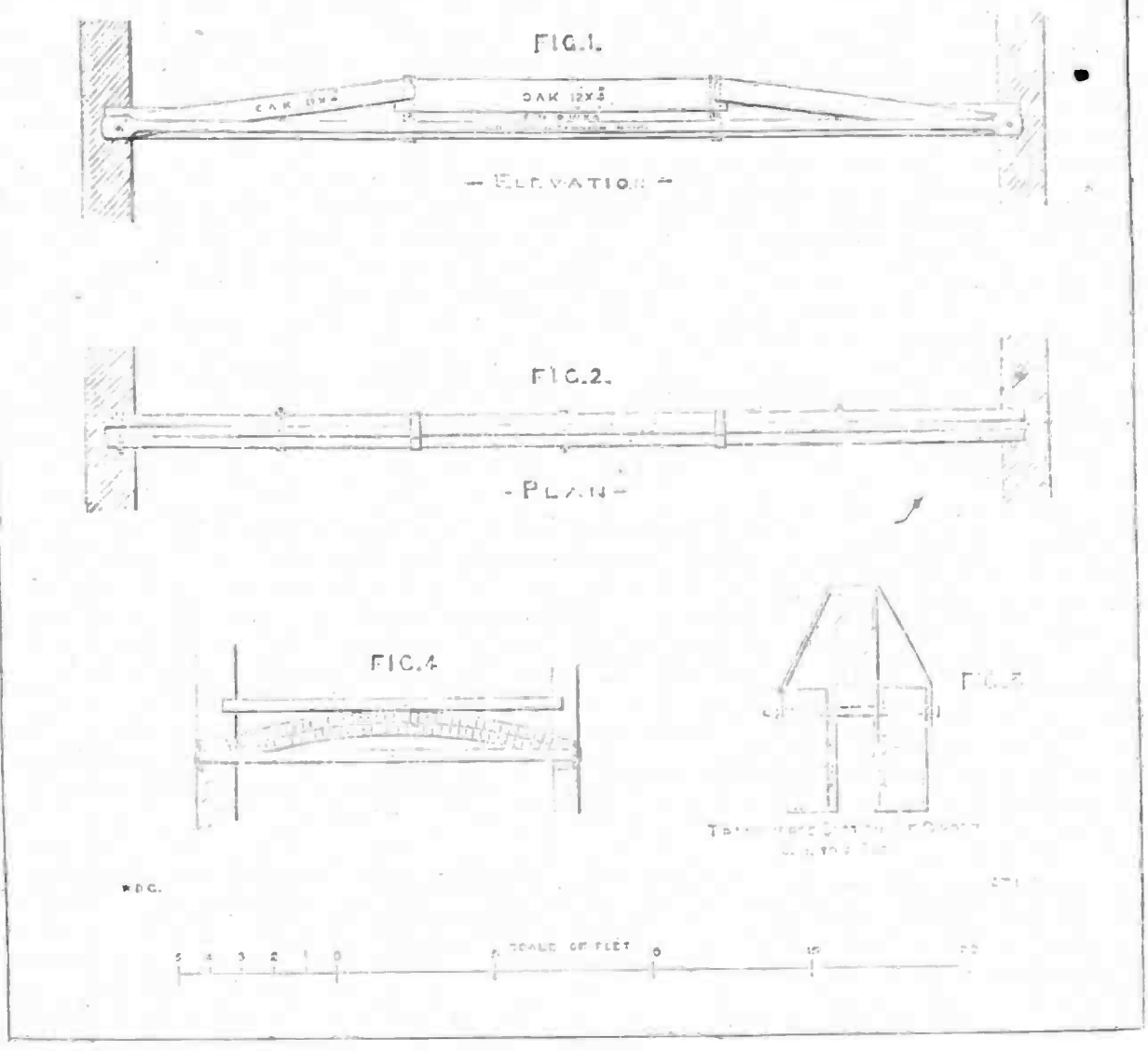
GIRDERS AND ARCHES AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.



and thus, the infancy of design being not yet surmounted, the greater demand upon the unpractised fancy produced the result of more frequent aberration, and there is more to condemn than in the earlier works, and perhaps less to praise: a story this, which has often to be told in many forms, in all histories, as well as ours; for in nothing is the vigour of the prime of life allowed to last, or the freshness of summer to have no end, but always old age and weakness—autumn and the sere and yellow leaf—lead inevitably on to the tomb and winter of the world.* K.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—An experiment was lately made at Manchester by Mr. Cox, superintendent of the Electric Telegraph Company, as to the practicability of passing electric currents along covered wires under water. The wire was of copper, wrapped with cotton, and then passed through shellac, and coated outside with India-rubber (cold naptha being used to cement the latter). A portion of the wire, including a coil of about half a mile in length, was submerged in the river Irwell. Communications were passed along with the ordinary facility. —— A new Metropolitan Telegraph Company has been announced, under the name of the General Telegraph Company.

PEAT TILES.—A description of tile is being manufactured for the use of his estates by Mr. Wason, of Corwar, consisting entirely of peat, and cut out of the moss by an instrument for the purpose.

* To be continued.

NOVEL GIRDERS AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

VERY considerable additions and alterations, at a large cost, are being made at Middlesex Hospital. In the course of the works some girders have been put up, the arrangement of a working man, J. Alderson, which deserve illustration. The main point in the arrangement is the introduction of a continuous thin wrought-iron tension band, as shown by the annexed elevation, plan, and transverse section. The truss is formed of oak, secured at the foot to the tension band, and has at each side a flitch of deal 12 inches by 4 inches, the whole very ingeniously strapped and bolted together. The span of the girder represented is 27 feet 6 inches, and the height of it in the centre 22 inches.

We are told that they were tested by means of the hydraulic press. When the pressure was raised to 9 tons 2 cwt., the deflection was 1¼ inches. The pressure being taken off, they sprang back to their position.

The same principle has been applied to brick arches where there is no abutment, and they are intended to carry landings. Two pieces of stone are introduced to form abutments, and these are bound together by a thin wrought-iron band, as shown by the diagram.

NEUBER'S WASHABLE WATER VARNISH is intended for maps, drawings, &c., and requires no size or other previous preparation. It appears to answer the purpose very well, and will be found useful.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.

THE opening meeting of the session was held on the evening of Friday, October 6th, several gentlemen of eminence in the profession being present. The walls and tables were covered with architectural drawings and sketches. Some beautiful models by Mr. Day, of Southwark, were on the table.

Prof. Donaldson took the chair, and, after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, stated that he had been requested by the late president, Mr. Robert Kerr (who was prevented attending the meeting), to preside over the early part of the proceedings, in order to introduce to the association their new president, Mr. C. Creeke. He experienced great pleasure in observing the progress which the association had made in one year, and had no doubt that it would produce architects of eminence. He had seen exhibitions of drawings by students in France and Italy, but the exhibition of that evening convinced him that English students were able fully to compete with them. He was very glad to see that that carelessness of drawing which was very prevalent a few years ago, existed no longer. He had looked round the rooms, and had seen original designs and delineations of existing remains which shewed that the rising generation of architects possessed a feeling for ancient precedents, an originality of taste, and a power of drawing which were to him peculiarly gratifying. The professor alluded to some botanical studies by Mr. Dwyer, which were hung on the walls, and urged strongly the importance of an acquaintance with nature

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